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26 July 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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South Vietnam: (South Vietnamese officials are now voicing cautious optimism over the regime's ability to weather the Buddhist crisis, despite the Buddhists' continuing pressure.)

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[redacted] the government's new conciliatory tactics have the full support of the cabinet and Diem's brother Nhu. These tactics appear designed to place the burden of reconciliation upon the Buddhists.)

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(While there have been no recent demonstrations by the Buddhists, their leaders have stated they intend to maintain their struggle. Moreover, an unofficial Buddhist spokesman now has openly attacked the Diem family rule. The possibility that the government may react forcibly in the event of further Buddhist demonstrations of self-sacrifice is a persistent danger.)

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Egypt: (The "UAR-developed" submarine which Field Marshal Amer has publicly stated will be launched soon is apparently a midget type, the components of which were furnished by the Soviet bloc.)

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([redacted] the vessel was of Polish design and construction. [redacted] its major components were shipped to Egypt, assembled, and readied for a demonstration cruise.)

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(There is no evidence of the existence of a Polish-designed midget submarine. The USSR, however, has at least one class of such vessels. In the past, some Soviet naval equipment has been delivered to nonbloc countries through Poland.) [redacted]

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Morocco: The principal Moroccan labor federation may react to growing government harassment by calling a general strike.

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[redacted] the chief of the Moroccan Union of Labor (UMT) has instructed union members to be ready for a general strike on 24-hour notice, and has urged strong local resistance to government-instigated pressures. The UMT is alarmed about arrests of leaders of the opposition party with which it is allied. The arrests have continued since the 16 July mass arrests. Officials of several UMT locals have also been detained.

The government's harassment is probably aimed primarily at ensuring a victory for the proroyalist party in the 28 July nationwide municipal elections. Since the arrests began, the UMT and the two major opposition parties have called for a boycott of the elections.

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Common Market: (The EEC Council now seems unlikely to take any action at its 29-30 July meeting to assure access to the Common Market for US poultry exports.)

(At a meeting of the Bonn cabinet on 24 July, Agriculture Minister Schwarz--probably supported by the Chancellor--opposed acceptance of the EEC Commission's proposal for a small reduction in the EEC's poultry import levies, despite urgings from the economics and foreign ministries that US desires be met at least to this extent. In consequence, no decision was taken and the German delegate to the Council meeting will have no instructions.)

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(In addition to the Commission's proposal, the Council is scheduled to consider a West German proposal, supported by the French, that US poultry be exempt from the EEC's supplemental import levy, provided the US guarantees not to offer poultry below the EEC's minimum import price. The latter proposal is unacceptable to the US.)

(The agricultural adviser to the German mission to the EEC predicted on 22 July that pressures from the farm lobby would prevent the Bonn agricultural ministry from accepting the Commission's proposal, even if this should lead the US to break off talks with the EEC on the issue and resort to retaliation on EEC exports to the US.)

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France - NATO: (France intends to withdraw about 120 aircraft now earmarked for NATO, but has not specified the type of aircraft involved or the timing of the move. The more advanced French aircraft, including the tactical and air defense squadrons, are in an "assigned" status and presumably will not be affected.)

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*Venezuela: (A government spokesman claimed last night that Venezuelan security forces had recaptured most of the several hundred prisoners who fought their way out of a downtown Caracas prison yesterday afternoon. At least 60 casualties were reported, some of them in other parts of the city which suggests an effort to aid the escapees was made by the pro-Castro Armed Forces for National Liberation (FALN). However, despite an FALN claim to the contrary, there is no evidence that the prisoners had extensive help from outside before the escape.)

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